

Paul Dresser and Theodore Dreiser Collection

S381
1895-1949
1folder

Manuscripts & Rare Books Division
Indiana State Library

Processed by and Finding Aid by: Nikki Stoddard Schofield, May 2014

Biographical Note:

In 1844, Johann Paul Dreiser came from Mayen in the Eifel region of Germany. He married Sarah Mary Schanab, a Mennonite from a farming community near Dayton, Ohio. Sarah was disowned when she married and converted to Catholicism. They had thirteen children. Both Paul and Theodore were born in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Paul Dresser (he changed his surname) was born on April 22, 1858, and never married. He was a songwriter, actor, playwright, composer, and musician. Paul died of a brain hemorrhage at the age of 48 on January 31, 1906 in New York City.

Paul's younger brother Theodore was born August 27, 1871, and married first Sara White in 1898, and then his cousin Helen Richardson in 1944. Paul was a novelist. He died of heart failure at the age of 74 on December 28, 1945 in Hollywood, California.

Source:

Information Found within Collection and from Wikipedia and Ancestry.com accessed on August 15, 2013.

Scope and Content:

The oldest item is the Old Mill time book, which Johann Paul Dreiser, Sr., manager of the Sullivan Woolen Mills, kept from March 1895 to 1901. A. R. Markle wrote a 9-page, typed article entitled "Paul Dresser's Birthplace." There are several newspaper articles, which have been photocopied, about the family. A two-page article from The Rendells, Inc., entitled "Dreiser Answers Legal Objections to the Highly Controversial Text of His 'America Is Worth Saving' reports that he wrote the book in 1940 with the help of British novelist Cedric Belfrage. In one envelope are letters written by Theodore Dreiser from 1888 through 1936, with one undated. On October 16, 1903, Paul Dresser typed a letter on Howley, Haviland & Dresser Music Publishers paper addressed to "Dear friend Mamie." Theodore Dreiser signed a typed letter to Clyde S. Crawford, Sullivan, Indiana, on May 16, 1940, when Theodore was living in Hollywood, California.

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Collection Inventory
Folder and Item Listing:

Title of Folder – Dresser, Paul & Theodore Dreiser

Date	
1899-1936	12 letters written by Theodore Dreiser
10/16/1903	Letter by Paul Dresser to Mamie
n.d.	Notes by Clyde Crawford about Dreiser family
n.d.	Various newspaper articles about the family
1941(?)	The Rendells article about “America Is Worth Saving”
n.d.	Paul Dresser’s Birthplace by A. R. Markle
1895-1901	Old Sullivan Woolen Mills time book
5/16/1940	Theodore Dreiser’s letter to Clyde Crawford

Collection Information:

Size of Collection:	1folder.
Collection Dates:	1895-1949
Provenance:	Clyde Crawford, Emeline Fairbanks, House of Books, Ltd. (purchase), various dates
Access:	The Collection is Open for Research Use
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Language:	Materials are entirely in: English
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Related Holdings:	None.
Collection Notes:	None.